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ABSTRACT

An evaluation was conducted of the first seven platoons (28 inmates) of female juveniles who entered the Polk County (Florida) Juvenile Boot Camp between June 1995 and February 1996. Findings include: the typical female boot camp graduate was 16 years old; 57 percent were black; the graduates averaged 7.7 delinquency cases before boot camp admission, slightly less than half of which involved felonies (most frequently, burglary); the average length of stay was 162 days; 19 of the 28 graduates earned high school credits, with the average number of credits earned being 2.5; aftercare services were provided by several community juvenile agencies, and 65 percent of the graduates successfully completed aftercare; 28 percent were employed; about 21 percent of the graduates were readjudicated or convicted on new charges during the first year after graduation, about the same percentage as that of a matched control group of youths released from other moderate and high-risk residential commitment programs; of boot camp graduates rearrested, about half were arrested for felonies and half for misdemeanors; and 30 percent of the graduates who were rearrested within 6 months of release were rearrested within 1 month of graduation from boot camp. It was recommended that further evaluation be conducted to determine which program components contribute to the achievement of program components, and not solely to outcomes. Contains 16 tables and 5 figures. (KC)

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Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program
A Follow-Up Study Of The First Seven Platoons

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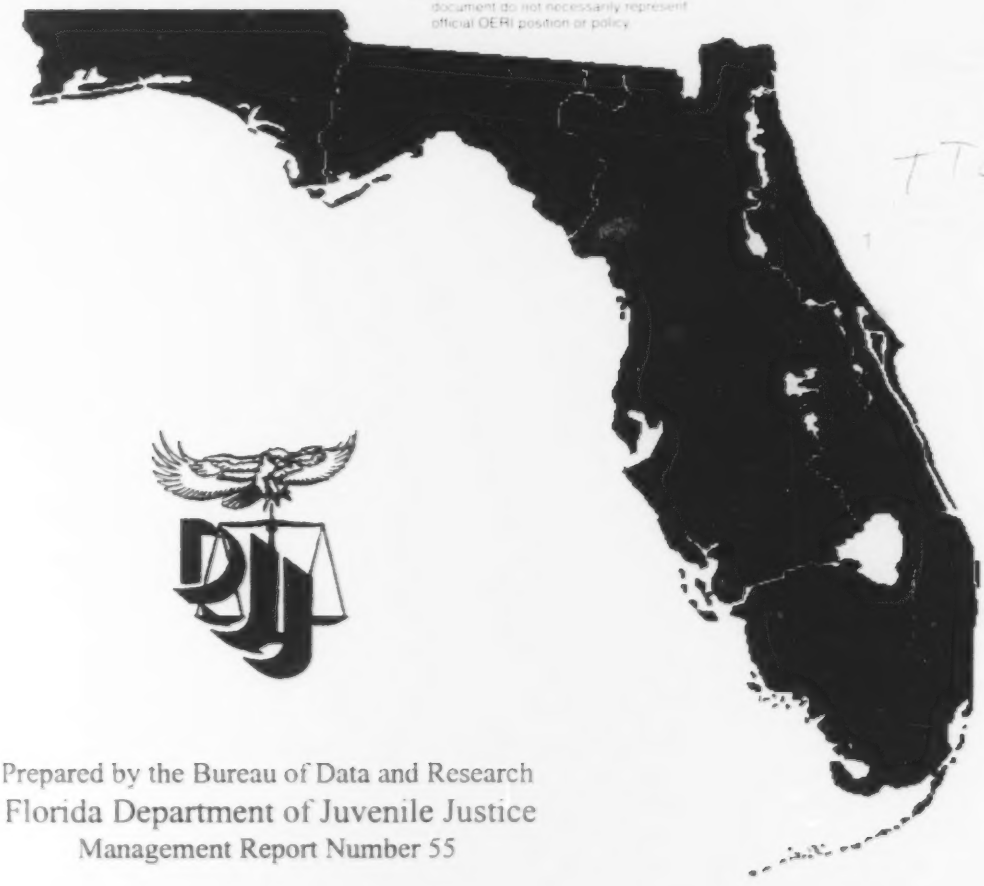

T Tollett

Prepared by the Bureau of Data and Research
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Management Report Number 55

May 1997

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Calvin Ross
Secretary

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STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

May 1997

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present our latest report, *Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program: A Follow-Up Study of the First Seven Platoons*. Produced by the DJJ Bureau of Data and Research, this is the seventh in a series of statutorily mandated evaluation reports on the boot camp programs.

This report focuses on the first seven platoons of juveniles to attend Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program (PCJBC-FP). Outcome measures for the PCJBC-FP graduates include: educational progress, employment placement and subsequent criminal activity within six months of release from the program. Outcomes are compared to those of a matched group of juveniles released from other DJJ programs.

Many agencies, including the Polk County Sheriff's Department, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida Department of Education, assisted in the data collection efforts required to produce this report. Without their cooperation, comprehensive outcome evaluations of DJJ programs would not be possible.

To request additional copies of this report, please contact John Joyce, the DJJ Public Information Officer, at **(904) 921-5900** or Suncom **291-5900**.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ross
Secretary

Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program: A Follow-Up Study Of The First Seven Platoons

Prepared by the Bureau of Data and Research
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Management Report Number 55

May 1997

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Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program: A Follow-Up Study of the First Seven Platoons

Boot camps are part of the broad continuum of programs operated under the direction of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp was the sixth juvenile boot camp to open in Florida, and the first to accept females. As part of the department's commitment to evaluating juvenile justice programs, this is the seventh in a series of studies examining Florida's juvenile boot camps. This report focuses on the graduates from the first seven platoons to attend the Female Program at Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp. General findings of this report include:

- Thirty-two recruits entered the Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program (PCJBC-FP) between June 1995 and February 1996.
- Outcome measures on twenty-eight of the 32 recruits are reported on here. Two recruits did not graduate because they were removed from the program due to medical problems. Two graduates who did graduate from the program were transferred to other residential programs to receive further services.
- The typical Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp-Female Program graduate was 16 years old.
- Fifty-seven percent of the graduates were black.
- The graduates averaged 7.7 delinquency cases before boot camp admission. Slightly less than one-half of the cases involved felony charges.
- The largest proportion of graduates were committed for misdemeanors.
- Nineteen of the 28 graduates earned high school credits. The average number of high school credits earned was 2.5.
- The average total length of stay in PCJBC-FP, including graduates returned to boot camp for noncompliance with aftercare rules, was 162 days.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) of the graduates successfully completed aftercare.
- Available data indicate that 82 percent of PCJBC-FP graduates either received a GED or continued their education after graduating.
- PCJBC-FP graduates received aftercare services from either PCJBC, DJJ Re-entry or the Student and Family Enhancement program (SAFE) operated by Associated Marine Institutes (AMI).
- PCJBC-FP graduates who successfully completed aftercare received an average of three months of services.

- Available data indicate twenty-eight percent (28%) of the graduates were employed after being released from boot camp.

- Thirty-six percent (36%) of the graduates were re-arrested within six months of graduation from boot camp. Twenty-one percent (21%) have subsequently been adjudicated or convicted on the new charges. These results did not differ significantly from a matched comparison group of 28 youths released from other moderate and high-risk residential commitment programs.

- Boot camp graduates re-arrested were equally divided between those re-arrested for felonies and those re-arrested for misdemeanors.

- Thirty percent (30%) of the recruits who were re-arrested within six months of release were re-arrested within one month of graduation from boot camp.

INTRODUCTION

Section 39.057 (9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), (1995) states that "[t]he department [of Juvenile Justice] shall keep records and monitor criminal activity, educational progress and employment placement of all boot camp program participants..." and that the results shall be compared to those of juveniles committed to other residential programs. To comply with the statutory requirements, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) conducts an outcome evaluation of each of the boot camp programs with comparisons to a matched group of youths who attended other residential commitment programs.

This report is the seventh in a series of evaluations of Florida's juvenile boot camps conducted by the Bureau of Data and Research of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.[1] This report focuses on the first seven platoons to be committed to the Female Program at Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp (PCJBC-FP).[2]

Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp is the only DJJ boot camp program to operate a program for females. PCJBC is located in Bartow, Florida, which is part of DJJ Service District 14. The boot camp primarily serves committed youths in the DJJ West Commitment Service Area which includes DJJ Service Districts 5, 6, 8 and 14.[3] Aftercare services are provided to the graduates by PCJBC, Student and Family Enhancement Program (SAFE) programs operated by Associated Marine Institutes, and DJJ Re-entry. Descriptions of the boot camp and the aftercare programs are provided. Outcome measures on both PCJBC-FP graduates and a comparison group are presented.

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[1]Other reports include: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (February 1996), *Manatee County Sheriff's Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 24, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (August 1996), *Pinellas County Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 33, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (November 1996), *Leon County Sheriff's Department Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Five Platoons*, Management Report 35, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (February 1997), *Martin County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 43, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (February 1997), *Bay County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Seven Platoons*, Management Report 44, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research; and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (March 1997), *Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 46, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research.

[2]To avoid confusion the boot camp will be referred to as PCJBC unless the reference is specifically to the female program in which case the notation PCJBC-FP will be used.

[3]The West Commitment Service Area encompasses Polk, Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Highlands, Hardy, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee and Collier counties.

DEVELOPMENT OF POLK COUNTY JUVENILE BOOT CAMP

Statutory Provisions

In 1989, the Florida legislature authorized the creation of juvenile boot camps. Section 39.057(1), F.S., (1995), describes a boot camp as an "...intensive educational and physical training and rehabilitative program for appropriate children" which requires juveniles to "...participate in educational, vocational, and substance abuse programs, and to receive additional training in techniques of appropriate decision-making, as well as in life skills and job skills" [s. 39.057(4), F.S., (1995)]. These programs are to be developed as partnerships between state and county governments. DJJ provides operational and fixed capital outlay funds for the development of boot camp programs. Interested county governments have to contribute a facility, land or money. The PCJBC opened as a program for males in September 1994. The first female recruits were accepted in June 1995.

Admissions

Youths are selected for placement in the PCJBC based on criteria specified in Chapter 39, F.S. and input from the juvenile court judge, the DJJ commitment manager, and the boot camp. Eligibility requirements for boot camp admission is set out in statute and limits admission to juveniles between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of adjudication, who had been committed to the department for any offense that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony except capital, life and first degree violent felonies [s. 39.57(3), F.S., (1995)].[4]

Eligibility for boot camp also depends on the program restrictiveness level ordered by the judge. A judge who decides to commit a youth to the department, must specify the restrictiveness level of the commitment program to which the youth is to be sent. Commitment programs in Florida are classified into five restrictiveness levels: non-residential programs, and low, moderate, high, and maximum-risk residential programs.[5] As of October 1, 1994, Chapter 39.057 (6), F.S. designated three levels of boot camps, minimum, moderate-risk and high-risk residential programs. PCJBC-FP is designated by DJJ as a moderate and high risk program.

The initial selection of youths to be sent to boot camp is made by the DJJ commitment manager in each district. Boot camp is identified as the most appropriate program within the restrictiveness level ordered by the judge. The commitment manager from District 14 coordinates the admission process with commitment managers from other districts. Youths from Polk County specifically, and District 14 generally, had priority for boot camp placement. When beds are available, districts located in proximity to the boot camp are invited to refer eligible youths. The next step in recruit selection is a medical and psychological screening. The boot

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[4]These criteria represent a modification of original eligibility requirements that limited boot camp admissions to capital, life, first degree, or second degree felons, and third degree felons with two or more prior felony adjudications of which one or more resulted in a residential placement (s. 39.057(3), F.S. (1993).

[5]The first maximum-risk residential program opened in July 1995.

camp statute requires that all youths sent to boot camp be screened to ensure that "...only those children who have medical and psychological profiles conducive to successfully completing an intensive work, educational and disciplinary program be admitted to the program" (s. 39.057(4), F.S.). Each youth has to have a psychological assessment performed no more than one year prior to admission and a physical assessment performed no more than 30 days prior to admission. Youths with a history of psychiatric illness, suicidal tendencies, abnormal EKGs or other physical problems that make boot camp placement inappropriate, and youths taking psychotropic medications are ineligible for boot camp placement. The final decision as to which youths would be admitted to boot camp is made at a staffing of each recruit's case. The final decision is made jointly by the PCJBC commander and the DJJ District 14 commitment management staff.

PCJBC-FP has a capacity of 20 recruits who enter boot camp in platoons of up to five. The entry of new platoons occurred approximately every four to six weeks. While a critical aspect of the military model, the tradition of platoons complicates the admission process. In order for each platoon to enter at capacity, DJJ has to have all new admissions completely processed and in custody on the date of the scheduled admission. Not all youths await admission to boot camp in secure detention. Therefore, admitting a full platoon is contingent upon DJJ having physical custody of the youth on admission day. Admission and release information is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Admission and Release Profile

Platoons	Date of Admission	Date of Release	Admissions	Graduates	Studied
Platoon 1	06/29/95	11/17/95*	6	5	5
Platoon 2	08/09/95	01/11/96*	5	5	5
Platoon 3	09/08/95	01/11/96*	5	5	4
Platoon 4	10/13/95	02/15/95*	5	4	4
Platoon 5	12/01/95	03/02/96*	4	4	4
Platoon 6	01/26/96	05/24/96*	4	4	3
Platoon 7	02/09/96	05/24/96*	3	3	3
Total Admissions and Graduates			32	30	28**

** Represents the earliest date that this event occurred for the platoon*

*** Two recruits successfully completed the boot camp program, but DJJ transferred them to another residential program for further services*

A total of 32 recruits were admitted to boot camp during the time period under study and 30 successfully completed the program. The two recruits who did not graduate were removed due to medical problems. An additional two recruits are included in this follow-up study because they were transferred to residential programs for further services.

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PCJBC PROGRAM DESCRIPTION [6]

The Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp is a joint project involving a number of state and local government entities. The Polk County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) operates the program under contract with DJJ. DJJ provides the majority of funding for the program through a per diem rate. PCSD provided the funds to build the facility. The Polk County Commission provided $1.5 million to build the facility and the land upon which it was built. The Polk County School District provides educational services and equipment. A community advisory board, which meets monthly with the boot camp commander and his staff, provides suggestions for community projects to assist recruits' re-integration into the community.

PCJBC-FP is a multi-disciplinary program consisting of a 20 bed residential paramilitary boot camp and integrated aftercare services. The boot camp program is modeled on the Marine Corps Training Depot at Parris Island. Providing aftercare services allows PCJBC to maintain control over recruits once they have left the residential facility. The program strives to coordinate with parents, schools, employers and other community organizations to promote an environment that will support the positive changes the residential phase of the program has sought to instill.

The program, as experienced by the youths reported on here, begins with PCSD deputies transporting the recruits from the Polk County Regional Detention Center to the boot camp in a van. Normal jail transport procedures are employed, including frisking, handcuffing and shackling each youth. The initial interaction between recruits and boot camp staff occurs once the van enters the boot camp compound. Drill instructors enter the bus and loudly begin instruction on program rules and regulations. Military customs and courtesies are explained, including the requirement that each recruit start and end all sentences with "Sir" or "Ma'am". Recruits are directed to get off the bus and stand on one of the sets of footprints painted on a concrete slab. The recruits are directed through a series of processing areas where informational forms are filled out, and a delousing spray applied. Next they are marched to the squad bay where they shower and are issued a uniform. The Senior Drill Instructor (SDI) introduces herself and goes over the seven rules of conduct:

1. "You must obey everything you are told to do quickly and willingly."
2. "You will treat all DIs and other recruits with courtesy and respect."
3. "You will respect the rights and property of all other persons."
4. "You must be proud of yourself and the uniform you wear."
5. "You must try your best to learn the things you are taught."
6. "You must work hard to strengthen your body."
7. "Above all else, you must never quit or give up."

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[6] Unless otherwise noted the female program is identical to the male program. This section is taken from: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (March 1997), *Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 46, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research.

At this point the DIs assigned to the platoon take over instruction. Proper military terminology is reviewed and expanded upon, the position of attention, and the proper way to make a bed are explained, demonstrated and practiced. The first interaction between the DIs and the recruits is highly intensive and designed to include periods of stress and uncertainty. While the response of drill instructors to noncompliance is swift and authoritative, no abusive or derogatory speech is allowed.

The first weeks of the program are an orientation period. The focus is on acclimating the recruit, who is referred to as "Recruit [*Last name*]", to the rules and routine of the program. Areas of instruction include drill and ceremony, fire and safety, rules and regulations, the daily schedule and inspection procedures. All rules and regulations are explained in the recruit handbook, which is provided to each recruit. Rules govern the proper way to address others, meal time procedures, room order, general rights and other expected behavior. Physical, health, educational and psycho-social assessments are conducted. Based on these assessments, a multi-disciplinary treatment team develops individualized treatment plans (ITP) which include detailed goals for behavior modification, education, counseling, employability and family relations. The plan outlines specific needs and goals, and the steps needed to reach these goals.

At the end of the orientation period three recruits are chosen by the SDI to serve as squad leaders. The squad leader leads her squad in close order drills and has other special duties such as passing the food during meal time and outdoor work details. A recruit maintains her position as squad leader as long as her behavior and effort are exceptional. The orientation period generally lasts two weeks, but can be extended based on platoon performance.

The program has three integrated components: military aspects; psychological counseling; and education. Full programming, which includes schooling, work detail, military drill and ceremony, physical training and counseling, starts after the orientation period. Each day begins at 5:00 a.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. A breakdown of the weekday schedule appears in Table 2. The largest portion of each weekday is spent in school. Daily 60-minute group counseling sessions are conducted by a contracted licensed mental health counselor. Three sessions a week are based on Rational Emotive Therapy, while two sessions a week focus on substance abuse. Special attention is paid to the issues of empowerment, sexual/emotional victimization and parenting. Individual counseling is provided as needed to address specific mental health issues. Group counseling sessions with the families are held each week during visiting hours. Outside organizations, including religious groups and women's professional associations provide weekly talks. A rule of silence is imposed with the exception of school, study hall and group counseling.

Table 2: PCJBC-FP's Basic Weekday Schedule	
05:00 - 05:35	Wake up
05:35 - 06:00	Morning meal
06:00 - 07:00	Room inspection and facility clean-up
07:00 - 11:00	Academics
11:00 - 11:30	Lunch
11:30 - 12:00	Basic daily routine[7]
12:00 - 13:00	Tutoring/Computer Lab/Drill instructors review session
13:00 - 14:00	Rational Emotive Therapy
14:00 - 15:00	Basic daily routine
15:00 - 16:00	Academics
16:00 - 16:30	Dinner
16:30 - 17:00	Basic daily routine
17:00 - 18:30	Physical training
18:30 - 19:00	Study Hall
19:00 - 20:00	Family counseling (weekly)
20:00 - 21:00	Basic daily routine
21:00	Lights Out

The boot camp program is designed to last a minimum of four months broken down into four levels. The four level system is symbolized by colored hats. Advancement to the next level depends on a recruit's progress in each of the three components of the program. A treatment team meeting is held once a month. The recruit, her parents, a drill instructor, a mental health counselor and an aftercare manager attend. Treatment goals are reviewed and updated. Recommendations regarding advancement are made. These recommendations are reviewed by the commander, deputy commander and a DI to determine if the recruit is ready for promotion to the next hat. A "cover board" ceremony is held when a recruit receives the next hat. Recruits who are deemed not ready for advancement are given a written notice of areas that need improvement. The recruit is given a 7 to 14 day training period during which the problem area is focused on. If progress is still unsatisfactory, the recruit is either returned to a previous hat color or reassigned to the junior platoon.

Advancement through the hat colors brings additional privileges. After receiving the second hat (approximately 30 days into the program), recruits are allowed one five minute telephone call, an hour-long visit once a week with family members, and an hour of free time daily. After reaching the third hat (approximately 60 days into the program), recruits are allowed an additional five minute phone call each week, additional letters, a photograph in their foot locker, and indoor work parties. In the fourth month, staff begin to use an "integrity check" which provides recruits the opportunity to demonstrate that they can sanction their own misbehavior. A drill instructor

[7]The basic daily routine includes ironing, room cleaning, squad bay cleaning, shoe shining, personal hygiene, remedial training, religious study, arts and crafts, and outside speakers. Youths are also provided with one hour of unstructured time in which to read, write letters and take care of other personal needs such as showering.

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will seemingly let a rule violation go unsanctioned. The recruit who broke the rule is supposed to demonstrate the ability to sanction herself by beginning to do push-ups and continuing until she is told to stop by a DI. Recruits must advance through all phases of the boot camp before being released to aftercare.

Facility

The boot camp is located in a physically secure building on the grounds of the Polk County Jail. The facility was specifically built to house the program. Females are housed in one of three 20-bed wings in the facility. All female platoons are housed in one squad bay. Recruits live in single rooms which contain a bed, sink, toilet and footlocker. Personal items are limited to family pictures, letters, school and religious materials. Academic classes, group counseling and visitation are held in one of four classrooms. Two classrooms contain 20 computer stations. In an attached wing of the building are administrative offices. The grounds contain a ropes course, an obstacle course, and a running track.

Staffing

The commander of the boot camp is a certified correctional officer with 15 years of experience with the Polk County Sheriff's Department (PCSD). The deputy commander is a lieutenant from the PCSD who holds state certification as a corrections officer. He oversees the day-to-day operations of the boot camp. The third administrative staff member is a secretary. The majority of the staff serve as drill instructors (DIs). Most had previously worked as patrol officers or correctional officers for PCSD. Approximately half of the drill instructors have military experience. Two DIs are selected to serve as senior drill instructors (SDIs) for the female recruits. The role of an SDI is that of a support figure, who monitors the progress of each recruit and is responsible for the training of the platoon. Generally, only female drill instructors are assigned to the female platoons. Male drill instructors are not permitted to be with female recruits unless accompanied by a female staff person.

Educational services are provided by teachers who are employees of the Polk County School Board. Group, family and individual counseling services are provided by PsyCare Inc. A full time licensed mental health counselor with an Ed.D. in forensic psychology oversees all educational and psychological services provided by outside agencies. Medical services and dental care are provided by a nurse from the Polk County Jail Facility.

Staff Selection and Training. Staff selection is based on oral boards which are used by the PCSD for all special assignments. The commander sits on the board and helps make the hiring decisions. All DIs are sworn and hold either correctional officer or law enforcement certification from the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. All PCSD employees receive training in addition to the training necessary to become state certified. Correctional officers receive a total of 550 hours and law enforcement officers receive a total of 640 hours of training. All original staff members received 120 hours of training from Parris Island drill instructors who conducted the training at PCJBC. Boot camp staff also received 40 hours of training in the policies and procedures

of DJJ and Crisis Intervention Techniques. A professor from the Center for Professional Development at the University of South Florida designed and conducted the training. In addition to the original training, boot camp staff receive a minimum of 40 hours of in-service training each year.

AFTERCARE

A revision in October 1994 to Section 39.057, F.S. (1995) specified that all participants in moderate or high-risk residential boot camp receive a minimum of four months of aftercare services. PCJBC was the first boot camp to provide aftercare services to its graduates. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the aftercare service providers by platoon. The majority of PCJBC-FP graduates received aftercare services from the boot camp. Youths residing outside Polk County received aftercare services from SAFE, a day treatment program. Four recruits were assigned to DJJ Re-entry services,[5] and one graduate was placed on post-commitment community control.[6] Descriptions of PCJBC's aftercare services and the SAFE program follow.

Table 3: Aftercare Service Providers By Platoon

Platoons	N	Day Treatment Services		No Day Treatment Services			
		SAFE Institutes		PCJBC Re-entry		DJJ Re-entry	
		N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Platoon 1	5	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%
Platoon 2	5	1	20%	2	40%	2	40%
Platoon 3	4	1	25%	2	50%	1	25%
Platoon 4	3**	1	33%	2	67%	0	0%
Platoon 5	4	2	50%	2	50%	0	0%
Platoon 6	3	0	0%	3	100%	0	0%
Platoon 7	3	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%
Total	**27****	**6**	**22%**	**17**	**63%**	**4**	**15%**

** Percentages in this table are row percentages, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not equal 100.*

*** One youth was placed on post-commitment community control.*

[5] Re-entry services involved assignment of the youths to a re-entry counselor who develops a transition plan. Re-entry counselors provide intensive supervision and oversight of transition plan implementation upon the youth's return to the community. Re-entry services are designed to last a minimum of four months. A minimum of weekly contact with the youth, parents and collateral sources such as school officials or employers is required. Contact decreases based on the youth's positive adjustment to the community. Generally, termination is not allowed until any restitution ordered by the court has been paid.

[6] Due to the way in which the FACTS database is structured, no completion information is available for youth placed on post-commitment community control.

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PCJBC's Aftercare Services[10]

PCJBC was the first boot camp program to provide aftercare services to its recruits. Modeled on DJJ Re-entry services, case managers provide supervision of the recruits after they return to the community. A case manager supervisor oversees a staff of case managers. Case managers serve a maximum of ten recruits. The case manager becomes involved with the recruit as soon as she enters the program and participates in the monthly meetings in which each recruit's progress is reviewed. The case manager also meets with the parents to become informed about the family's strengths and weaknesses. By the time recruits enter aftercare, the case manager has first hand knowledge of the reintegration problems the recruits will face returning to her family, neighborhood, and school.

Within the first two weeks of release from boot camp, each recruit begins the process of developing a performance contract that outlines the rules she must abide by and the goals towards which she will work while in aftercare. The recruit, her parents or guardians, the case manager and the case manager supervisor sign the contract before the recruit is released from boot camp. The contract is sent to the court to serve as the basis for the conditions of release from aftercare. All parties also sign the family contract in which the recruit agrees to abide by her family's rules.

Once the recruit is released to aftercare, the case manager provides intensive supervision and oversight of the performance contract. Daily personal contact with the youth is required. Bi-weekly contacts, either in person or by phone, with parents, school officials and employers is also required. Contact decreases based on the youth's positive adjustment to the community. Successful release from aftercare depends upon adherence to the contract. The youth must have paid any restitution imposed by the court, must be employed or in school, and must have the approval of the DJJ case manager and the juvenile court.

SAFE Programs[11]

SAFE is designed for youths re-entering the community from moderate and high-risk residential facilities (Levels 6 and 8). SAFE provides supervision to ensure public safety and seeks to assist youths in making the transition from a highly structured environment back to the community. SAFE programs are an extension of AMI's day treatment programs. The day treatment programs are designed for youths committed to low-risk, non-residential placements (Level 2). Boot camp graduates at SAFE institutes are mixed with youths released from a variety of residential programs and with minimal risk youths who receive day treatment services only.

In addition to the day treatment program which operates from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., boot camp

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[10]This description of the aftercare program is taken from Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (March 1997), *Polk County Juvenile Boot Camp: A Follow-up Study of the First Four Platoons*, Management Report 46, Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Data and Research.

[11]This description of SAFE programs is drawn from the SAFE Program Operations Manual and discussions with AMI staff.

graduates enrolled in the SAFE program receive "extended services". Extended services included supervision until at least 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and eight hours daily on the weekends. The curriculum focuses on life skills, employability, health education, social skills and self concept. Emphasis is placed on providing educational and employment placements. Additional curriculum-based programming is provided during these hours.

The SAFE program is divided into five phases. The length of a youth's stay in each phase depends on individual progress. The first phase begins while the recruit is still in boot camp. SAFE staff meet with the youth and her family to prepare them for transition to the aftercare program and re-entry into the community. An individual transition plan is developed with input from the recruit, her family, the DJJ case manager, boot camp staff, and school officials. This plan identifies the youth's needs and goals, and the responsibilities of the youth, parent(s), and SAFE. Both short-term and long-term goals for education, family relationships, and behavioral objectives are determined.

The transition phase begins after graduation from boot camp. During this phase, youths are at the institute from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and for eight hours daily on Saturdays and Sundays. The schedule (Table 4) differs slightly depending on individual needs.

Table 4:
SAFE's Basic Daily Schedule for Youths in the Transition Phase

07:00-08:30 a.m.	Transported to Institute
08:30-09:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:00-09:30 a.m.	Large Group Meeting
09:30-12:00 a.m.	Academics
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30-03:00 p.m.	Academics
03:00-03:30 p.m.	Large Group Meeting
03:30-05:30 p.m.	Extended Services Curriculum Activity
05:30-06:30 p.m.	Dinner Prep Dinner Clean up
06:30-09:00 p.m.	Recreational Activities
09:00 p.m.	Transported Home

SAFE provides transportation to and from the institute. Once youths return home each night, they are not permitted to leave. Random tracking calls are made each evening to ensure compliance with curfew. Program staff also make random visits to youths' homes targeting high-risk periods such as nights, weekends, and holidays. Youths who violate curfew can be placed on electronic monitoring. Weekly contact is made with the families to discuss youths' progress at school, behavior at home, and to set goals for the next week. The transition phase lasts for one to two months, depending on attendance, program performance and evidence of appropriate behavior and decision-making skills.

Advancement to Phase 3 is permitted when the youth has demonstrated appropriate behavior and acquires both day and evening placements. Day and evening placements designed to meet goals

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are outlined in each youth's transition plan. A number of options are available in Phase 3 that combine the institute's day program, employment placement, and outside academic programs. Some youths attend school during the day and work or participate in the institute's program during the evening; others work during the day and attend night school. Random tracking ensures compliance with curfew. Youths who violate program rules can be returned to the transition phase or to PCJBC. Phase 3 generally lasts one to two months.

During Phases 4 and 5, the degree of services provided and the extent of supervision decreases. Youths are given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to live in the community. A community coordinator makes daily personal contact with each youth during Phase 4. Phase 4 generally lasts between 45 and 60 days. Promotion to Phase 5 indicates that the youth has an established, legitimate educational and/or employment placement and has continually demonstrated appropriate behavior. Face to face contact with youths is reduced to an "as needed" basis. Phase 5 lasts between 45 and 60 days. Violation of placement or inappropriate behavior during any phase can result in a youth being returned to a previous phase.

Recycling: Return to Boot Camp

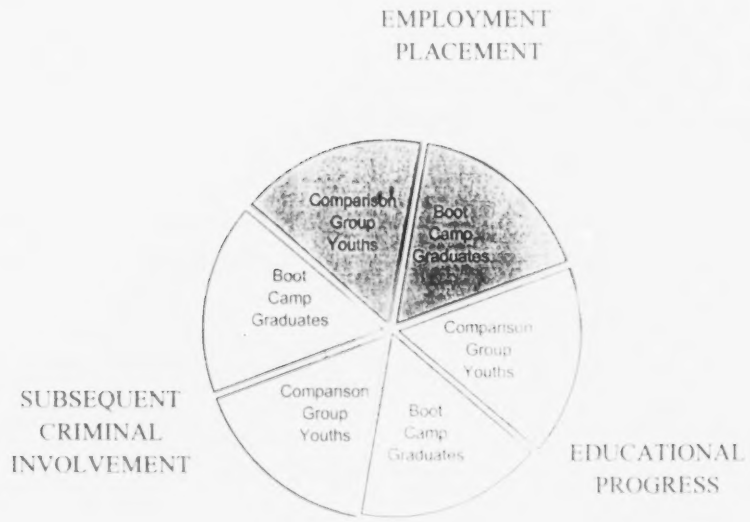
Under a procedure referred to as recycling, youths who fail to conform to the rules of the aftercare program can be transferred back to the boot camp. This practice provides a means of dealing with youths who fail to comply with aftercare rules and requirements, but who have not been arrested. Upon the request of the aftercare program, a DJJ Transfer Hearing[12] is held to determine the appropriateness of the transfer. The recycling procedure differs from being returned to juvenile court on new charges and being recommitted to boot camp.

[12]Transfer policy is set out in the in the DJJ Intervention Services Manual, Number 8.06, Transfer Procedures for Committed Youth.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Figure 2 depicts the six sections of the outcome evaluations mandated by Section 39.057 (9), F.S., (1995). This report focuses on the 28 graduates of the first seven platoons to attend PCJBC-FP, and a matched comparison group of youths who completed other moderate and high-risk residential programs during the same time period.

Figure 2: Outcome Evaluation Components As Specified in Section 39.057 (9), F.S., (1995)



Comparison Group Youths

A comparison group consisting of 28 youths who completed other DJJ residential commitment programs was drawn from the population of females who completed programs of the same restrictiveness levels as the boot camp (moderate or high-risk) located in the same commitment service area as the PCJBC-FP recruits. In addition, the comparison group pool was limited to those youths released to the community during the same time period as PCJBC-FP graduates (November 1995-June 1996). Only 24 youths met these criteria, so all were included in the comparison group along with four youths who graduated in July and August. This procedure resulted in the comparison group being drawn from two DJJ residential programs.

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Profile of Recruits and Comparison Group Youths

Data on youths' demographic characteristics, and delinquency and commitment histories, and commitment offenses were obtained from the Department of Children and Families Client Information System (CIS) and the Florida Assessment, Classification and Tracking System (FACTS). Table 5 indicates that the demographic characteristics, and the delinquency and commitment histories of the comparison group youths are very similar to those of the PCJBC-FP graduates.

PCJBC-FP graduates averaged 15.9 years of age at admission, with 60 percent being under 16 years of age. The average age at first delinquency referral was 13.8 years and ranged from 10 to 16 years of age. Fifty-seven percent of the graduates were black.[13] Twenty-seven percent of the graduates were court ordered to a high-risk residential placement. Data on the commitment offense (i.e., the most serious offense for which the judge ordered the youth committed to the department) are also presented. Overall, 54 percent were committed for felonies; 18 percent were committed for property felonies and 18 percent were committed . Appendix A details the offenses included in each category. In terms of specific charges, the most frequent commitment offense was non-law violations of community control which accounted for 21 percent of all admissions. Burglary accounted for the second largest percentage (14%) of commitments to PCJBC-FP.[14]

In addition to commitment offense, an examination of recruits' previous delinquency history adds to the description of the typical offender in PCJBC-FP. Table 5 presents measures of chronicity and seriousness of prior offending for boot camp graduates and comparison group youths. Before boot camp admission, the lifetime average number of referrals for the graduates is 7.7 referrals, with an average of 5.3 adjudicated cases. Close to one-half of these cases involved felony offenses. There is considerable variation among the recruits with regard to the number and type of offenses committed before boot camp admission. The number of previous cases ranged from 2 to 18, with 64 percent having eight or more prior cases.[15] Seventy-one percent of the recruits previously been committed to the custody and care of the department, and 29 percent had previously spent time in a *residential* program. In fact, 68 percent of the recruits were transferred to PCJBC-FP from another residential program.[16]

The youth in the comparison group had very similar delinquency histories. However, compared to the recruits who went to boot camp, the comparison group has fewer black females, fewer youths who had previously been committed to DJJ and fewer youths ordered to a high-risk

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[13]CIS lists the race of youths included in this report as either black or white.

[14]A detailed breakdown by platoon of demographic characteristics, and delinquency and commitment histories is provided in Appendix B.

[15]Referrals and adjudications are measured in cases. A case consists of all charges on a given date. If a youth is charged with multiple offenses on a single date, the offenses are counted together as one case. If the same youth is charged with one or more offenses on another date, this would be counted as another case.

[16]This was either on a direct administrative transfer or due to a concurrent recommitment that resulted in a placement change.

residential program. However, a greater percentage of the comparison group were committed to DJJ for felonies. The only statistically significant difference was between percentage of youth in the two groups ordered to high-risk residential programs by the judge. Overall, the two groups are similar enough to warrant comparisons in outcome measures.

Table 5:
Comparison of Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths on Demographic, Commitment, Delinquency and Sentence Length Variables

Characteristics	Boot Camp Graduates	Comparison Group Youths
Average age at admission	15.9	16.0
Average age at first delinquency referral	13.8	13.3
Female	100%	100%
Black	57%	32%
Court-ordered to a high-risk residential program	27%	4%*
Committing offense:		
Felony Person	18%	14%
Felony Drug	4%	0%
Felony Property	18%	29%
Other Felony	14%	21%
Misdemeanors	25%	18%
Non-law violation of community control	21%	18%
Delinquency history (cases) †**:**		
Average number of delinquency cases prior to program admission†	7.7	7.4
Average number of felony referrals prior to program admission†	3.3	3.5
Average number of cases adjudicated prior to program admission†	5.3	5.1
Average number of felony cases adjudicated prior to program admission†	1.7	2.1
Previously committed to DJJ	71%	50%
Overall average length of stay in days	162	160
Total	28	28

† *Figures represent the number of prior referrals and adjudicated cases. A case consists of all charges on a given date. See footnote 15 for further explanation.*

* *Statistically significant difference from boot camp graduates p< .05*

Length of Stay. Length of stay for boot camp graduates consists of the sum of two components: time to graduation and additional days served under the recycling procedure. The average length of stay before graduation was 141 days. For the subgroup of recruits (n=6) who were recycled to boot camp, total length of stay includes the additional days in boot camp. This increased the overall average length of stay for boot camp graduates to

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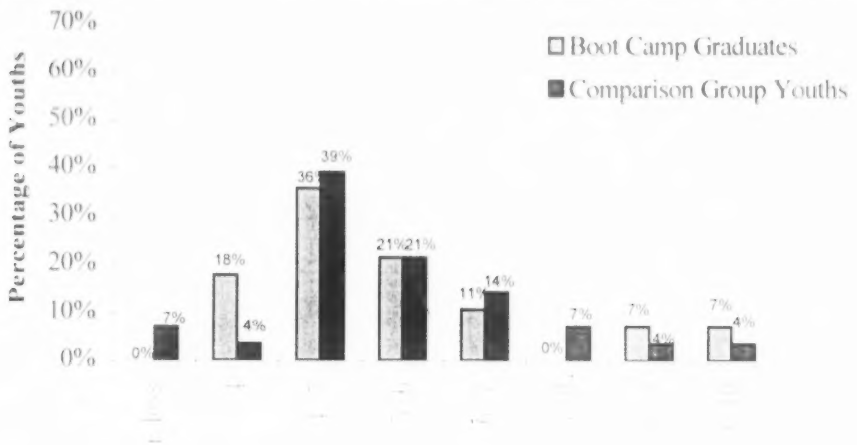
162 days (23 weeks). Recycling procedures do not apply to the comparison group; their length of stay represents the time between a single admission and release date. The average length of stay for the comparison group youths was 160 days. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the length of stay for boot camp graduates and the comparison group.

Figure 2: Length of Stay for Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths in Months



Length of Stay in Months

A majority of each group spent between four and six months in residential treatment. Eighteen percent of the boot camp graduates and 11 percent of the comparison group spent four months or less in residential placement. Fourteen percent of the boot camp graduates and eight percent of the comparison group youths spent over eight months in residential treatment.

Outcome Measures

Five categories of outcome measures are examined: educational progress, aftercare release status employment placement, recycling to boot camp, and subsequent criminal involvement.

Educational Progress. A variety of measures of educational progress during boot camp and after release were collected. Three measures of educational progress during boot camp are reported: number of high school credits earned, grade point average, and progress towards a General Education Diploma (GED).

Another indicator of educational progress is enrollment in an academic or vocational program after graduation. Four sources of information were used to obtain this data.

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PCJBC and SAFE provided information as to whether recruits who received aftercare services returned to a public school while in or upon release from aftercare. The Polk County School District provided enrollment information for youths who remained in Polk County. The Florida Department of Education's (DOE) statewide database was accessed to provide information on youths who enrolled in schools outside of Polk County.

Aftercare Release Status and Client Service Days. Youths released from aftercare are classified either as having successfully completed aftercare or as an unsuccessful release. Unsuccessful release from aftercare occurs for a variety of reasons including: arrest and detention, recommitment or transfer to another residential program or an adult facility, and absconding from the program and not returning. In these cases, the release date is determined by the actions of the youth or others outside the aftercare program. A youth is classified as a successful completion if she has progressed through all the phases of the program, and/or the DJJ case manager determines that she is ready for release into the community.

Employment Placement. Information on youths' employment after release from boot camp or from the comparison programs was obtained from three sources: SAFE, PCJBC, and DOE's Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP). FETPIP obtains employment data from the Florida Department of Labor, Division of Unemployment Insurance to which all Florida employers report wages paid.

Recycling: Return to Boot Camp. As previously described, recruits who fail to conform to aftercare rules can be re-admitted to the boot camp under a procedure called recycling. The decision to return a recruit to boot camp indicates that aftercare staff thought the youth was at risk for re-offending.

Subsequent Criminal Involvement. Recidivism or re-offending after release from a program can be measured in many different ways. Most often recidivism is defined in terms of cessation of criminal involvement; program participants either succeed (i.e., no subsequent criminal involvement) or fail (i.e., subsequent criminal involvement). Cessation of criminal involvement can be measured variously as:

- no subsequent referrals or arrests,
- no subsequent adjudications/convictions, or
- no subsequent commitments/incarcerations.

The measure used depends on the type of information desired. Each measure has drawbacks. For example, using re-arrest as a measure of recidivism both undercounts (much criminal activity goes undetected by the police), and overcounts (some persons arrested are not guilty) re-offending behavior. However, re-arrest is a useful measure for assessing the impact released youths have on police and DJJ resources; each youth re-arrested requires police and DJJ staff to spend time processing the case. The second measure, re-adjudication/conviction, is a clearer indication that a youth is, in fact, guilty of the offense charged. This measure may be the most appropriate for assessing the

degree to which a program's graduates have succeeded in staying out of trouble with the law. Finally, dispositional information, including commitments and incarcerations, provides a broad indication of the seriousness of subsequent offending and the number of youths who will require a bed in a juvenile program or adult facility. All three measures are presented in this report. All figures are based on referrals or arrests that occurred within six months of release and the dispositions that stemmed from those arrests. In addition, the relationships between recruit age, commitment status, aftercare provider, recycling, and re-referral/arrest are examined, as is the timing of the first subsequent arrest.

Information from both the juvenile and adult systems was collected in order to obtain a complete picture of re-offending. Data relating to juvenile referrals and dispositions were collected from the CIS database. Adult arrest information was obtained from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC). FCIC includes arrest information on youths who have reached age 18 or whose cases have been transferred to adult court for processing. Dispositional data missing from these two sources were obtained from the court clerks' offices in the 20 judicial circuits and from the Department of Corrections. Arrest records from other states were not examined.

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[7]Due to concern about the validity and reliability of the data, a careful examination of arrests listed in FCIC and CIS was conducted. When juveniles are transferred to adult court for processing, a record of the arrest can appear in both CIS and FCIC. In some of the cases examined, arrest dates appearing in the two databases differed by as much as five months. In a number of these cases, the arrest date in FCIC appears to reflect the date that the case was transferred to adult court, rather than the date of arrest. Since the date of arrest determines whether an arrest falls within the one year follow-up period, a determination had to be made as to which arrest date should be used. When an arrest for a similar offense appeared both in CIS and in FCIC, the arrest was deemed to be the same event if the date of transfer to adult court in CIS matched the arrest date in FCIC. In these situations the arrest date in CIS rather than in FCIC was used. As date of arrest is being used as a proxy for offense date, it was decided that the arrest date in CIS more accurately reflected when the offense took place.

EVALUATION RESULTS

Educational Progress

Recruits' academic progress while in boot camp is an important measure of the program's impact. Boot camps, like all residential programs, are required to provide a minimum of five hours of schooling a day. The Polk County School District provides educational services. Subjects covered include: science, social studies, physical education, math, and English. The classrooms are equipped with computers. A variety of software programs, including New Century Education Software, are used to teach language arts, math, geography and science. There is also a software program designed for GED preparation.

The educational program is designed to improve overall academic functioning and skill levels to increase the chances of successful re-integration into community schools. The military overlay, with its emphasis on discipline, is evident in the PCJBC classroom. The drill instructors are present in the classroom and can step in if they think the teachers need assistance. Beginning in the second month of the program, certain recruits are selected to serve as peer tutors.[18] During study hall, peer tutors assist other recruits with their homework.

Department of Juvenile Justice records from FACTS indicate that close to half (48%) of the recruits were classified as truants. Only 24 percent were classified as attending school regularly before boot camp admission. The remainder were classified as dropouts (12%), expelled (12%), or frequently tardy (4%). In terms of special educational services, twenty-four percent of the group were classified by the school district as requiring special educational services. Classifications included Severe Learning Disability (4%), Emotionally Handicapped (8%), and Severely Emotionally Disturbed (12%).

High School Credits Earned. Information on high school credits earned while in PCJBC was available for 19 of the 28 recruits. The average number of credits earned was 2.5. Figure 3 presents a breakdown of the distribution of credits earned. Four youths were not eligible to earn high school credits, as they had not reached the ninth grade. An additional five youths did not earn any credits while in boot camp because their confinement did not correspond with a grading period.

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arrest date in CIS more accurately reflected when the offense took place.

[18] Polk County School District also provides tutors.

Figure 3: Distribution of High School Credits Earned

Table 6 presents a breakdown of credits earned by platoon.

Grade Point Average (GPA). Table 6 also presents a breakdown of grade point average by platoon. Six of the 19 youths who earned credits while at PCJBC-FP achieved a 3.0 GPA (B average) or better. Overall the average GPA was 2.6 out of 4.0 indicating a C+ average.

Table 6: High School Credits Earned and Grade Point Average by Platoon

Platoons	N	Average Number of Credits Earned	Average Grade Point Average
Platoon 1	3	2.7	2.7
Platoon 2	4	2.0	2.9
Platoon 3	3	2.5	2.7
Platoon 4	3	2.8	1.8
Platoon 5	1	2.5	2.6
Platoon 6	2	2.5	2.8
Platoon 7	3	2.7	2.9
Totals	19*	2.5	2.6

** Nine recruits earned no credits*

General Education Diploma. The third measure of educational progress is receipt of a General Education Diploma (GED). Three recruits received their GEDs during their time at PCJBC-FP. No information was available on GEDs earned by the comparison group youths.

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Educational Placement After Graduation. The final measure of educational progress examined was continuation of schooling after release from PCJBC and the aftercare based school.[19] Of the 25 youths who did not receive a GED, available data indicated that 20 recruits continued their education. Sixteen were enrolled in high school, two attended a vocational program, and two attended adult educational classes. Although there is no data to indicate the remaining five youths were enrolled in any type of educational program, limitations in the data collection methods make it impossible to definitively conclude that they were not.[20] Available data thus indicate that 82 percent of the PCJBC-FP graduates either had received a GED or continued their education after graduation.

Less complete data was available on the comparison group youths. Available data indicated that six youths continued their education after release. Two were in high school, one was enrolled in a vocational program, two were attending adult education classes, and one girl received her GED while in aftercare. Although there is no data to indicate the remaining 22 youths were in school, limitations in the data collection methods make it impossible to definitively conclude that they were not. Available data thus indicate that 21 percent of the comparison group youths continued their education after leaving their residential program.

Aftercare Release Status and Client Service Days

One measure of post release adjustment is aftercare release status. Youths released from aftercare are classified as either a successful completion or as an unsuccessful release. Unsuccessful release from aftercare occurs for a variety of reasons including: arrest and detention, recommitment or transfer to another residential program or an adult facility, and absconding from the program and not returning. In these cases, the release date is determined by the actions of the youth or others outside the aftercare program. Successful release depends upon progression through the phases of the program, and/or the DJJ case manager's assessment of readiness for release.

The aftercare services received by boot camp graduates were described in an earlier section. Comparison group youths received similar aftercare services. Thirty-nine percent of the comparison group received DJJ Re-entry services, 28 percent received day treatment services, 29 percent were placed on post-commitment community control, and four percent were released outright.

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[19]The six boot camp graduates who received day treatment aftercare services from SAFE were enrolled in school at SAFE. The focus here is on whether they continued their education in community-based schools.

[20]When working with large databases, it is necessary to match data by an unique identifier. The most commonly used identifier is a social security number. However, if the social security number is missing from a database, or if any of the databases contain incorrect social security numbers, the match will fail. To improve the match rate, alternative matching techniques based on name and date of birth were developed. These techniques have limitations because they are not sophisticated enough to recognize variations in names (e.g., Robert, Bobby). Given these limitations, we can not be certain we have succeeded in matching the available data.

Table 7 presents a breakdown of release status by service provider for boot camp graduates. Seventeen (65%) of the graduates released from aftercare were classified as having completed aftercare successfully. Both PCJBC re-entry services and SAFE had higher rates of successful releases than DJJ Re-entry services. However, given the small number of youths in each program comparisons among aftercare providers must be made with caution.

Table 7: Release Status By Service Provider

	Service Providers							
	Overall		SAFE		PCJBC Re-entry Services		DJJ Re-entry	
Release Status	**N**	**%[a]**	**N**	**%[a]**	**N**	**%[a]**	**N**	**%[a]**
Successful	17	65%	4	67%	12	71%	1	33%
Unsuccessful	9	35%	2	33%	5	29%	2	67%
Total	**26[b]**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**3**	**100%**

a. All percentages in this table are column percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.

b. One recruit was placed on post-commitment community control and one recruit is still enrolled in aftercare.

Table 8 details the reasons for recruit's failure to complete aftercare. Overall, the majority of failures were admitted to another DJJ residential program (either transferred or recommitted by the court). Two-thirds of the failures absconded from aftercare supervision.

Table 8: Reasons For Failure To Complete Aftercare By Aftercare Provider

	Overall		SAFE		PCJBC Re-entry Services		DJJ Re-entry Services	
Unsuccessful Releases	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Absconded from aftercare no further information	2	22%	1	50%	1	20%	0	0%
Absconded, transferred to another program	4	44%	1	50%	1	20%	2	100%
Transferred to another residential program	2	22%	0	0%	2	40%	0	0%
Recycled to boot camp then sent to adult court	1	11%	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%
Total	**9**	**100%**	**2**	**100%**	**5**	**100%**	**2**	**100%**

Table 9 presents a breakdown of successful releases by platoon and for the comparison group. The percent of successful releases range from a high of 100 percent for Platoons 4 and 5 to a low of 33 percent for Platoons 6 and 7. The comparison group had a slightly lower rate of successful releases from aftercare (60 percent versus 65 percent respectively).

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Table 9: Aftercare Completion Rates by Platoon and Average Client Service Days				
Platoons	**N**	**Successful Completions**		**Average Client Service Days for those who Successfully Completed Aftercare**
		N	**%[a]**	
Platoon 1	5	3	60%	46
Platoon 2	5	3	60%	68
Platoon 3	3[b]	2	67%	92
Platoon 4	3[c]	3	100%	196
Platoon 5	4	4	100%	92
Platoon 6	3	1	33%	32
Platoon 7	3	1	33%	11
Boot Camp Totals	**26[b,c]**	**17**	**65%**	**90**
Comparison Group	**15[d]**	9	60%	125

[a] *All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

[b] *One youth is still in aftercare.*

[c] *One youth was placed on post-commitment community control.*

[d] *Four youth are still receiving aftercare services, eight youths were placed on post-commitment community control and one youth did not receive aftercare services.*

Client Service Days. As previously described, the length of time spent in aftercare depends on each recruit's progress. In calculating the length of time spent in aftercare, two distinctions need to be recognized. The first distinction is the difference between client service days and the time period over which services are received. Client service days refers to the actual number of days that a youth receives aftercare services. Because youths are sometimes placed on inactive status, the time period over which youths receive aftercare services is often longer than the number of client service days.[21] Aftercare services can not always be provided to youths on inactive status.[22] Therefore, the time period during which youths are on inactive status is not included in calculations of client service days.

The second distinction is between client service days for all youths receiving aftercare versus youths who successfully complete aftercare. For all recruits released from aftercare, the average number of aftercare client service days was 81. This varied from 5 to 352 days. Of greater interest is the length of time served by youths who successfully complete aftercare. Table 9 presents the average number of client service days for those

[21]Youths were placed on inactive status by DJJ if they absconded, were detained, or were admitted to a substance abuse or mental health facility.

[22]For example, services can not be provided to youths who have absconded. AMI reports that they provide services to inactive youth and their families whenever possible.

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who successfully completed aftercare for both boot camp graduates and the comparison group. For PCJBC-FP graduates who successfully completed aftercare, the average number of client service days was 90 days or approximately three months. Approximately 50 percent of those who successfully completed aftercare received less than three months of aftercare.

The average length of stay for the nine comparison group youths who successfully completed aftercare was 125 days or four months. Client service days ranged from approximately 46 to 281 days. Approximately 22 percent of the comparison group received less than three months of services.

Employment Placement

Finding employment is often part of a youth's aftercare plan. However, the young age of some youths hinders their ability to get jobs. At the time of release from boot camp, 11 (39%) recruits were under 16 years of age, and even at the time of release from aftercare 10 (28%) were still under 16. Based on data from FETPIP and as reported by the aftercare providers, 10 (28%) recruits were employed after release from boot camp. Only one of the 10 recruits still under 16 at the time of release from aftercare was employed. Although there is no data to indicate that the remaining 18 boot camp graduates were employed, limitations in the data collection methods make it impossible to definitively conclude that they were not.

Nine of the comparison group youths were under age 16 at the time of release from their residential programs. Based on data from FETPIP and as reported by the aftercare providers, nine (32%) comparison group youths were employed after release from their residential program. Only three of the nine recruits under 16 years of age at the time of program release were employed. Although there is no data to indicate the remaining 19 youths were employed, data limitations make it impossible to definitively conclude that they were not.

Recycling: Return to Boot Camp

Another measure of post release adjustment for the boot camp graduates was the prevalence of re-admission to boot camp. Youths who fail to conform to aftercare rules can be recycled or re-admitted to boot camp. The recycling procedure differs from being recommitted to boot camp on new charges; none of the graduates were recommitted to PCJBC-FP after being adjudicated for a new crime.

Information on the re-admission history of the 28 graduates is presented in Table 10. Twenty-one percent of the graduates from platoons one through seven were returned to boot camp for noncompliance with aftercare program rules.[23] The youths who were recycled averaged three

[23]Recycled does not mean re-arrested. Recycling is an administrative process used with youths who are not complying with aftercare rules and regulations.

additional months in boot camp. The average extra time spent in boot camp varied from 14 to 225 days with an average of 89 days (3 months).

Table 10: Profile of Recruits Recycled to PCJBC-FP

Platoons	Recruits	Recycled to Boot Camp		Average Additional Days Spent in Boot Camp
		N	%*	
Platoon 1	5	3	60%	91
Platoon 2	5	1	20%	127
Platoon 3	4	0	0%	n.a.
Platoon 4	4	0	0%	n.a.
Platoon 5	4	0	0%	n.a.
Platoon 6	3	2	67%	103
Platoon 7	3	0	0%	n.a.
Totals	**28**	**6**	**21%**	**87**

** All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number*

Subsequent Criminal Involvement

The final category of outcome measures assess subsequent involvement with the juvenile or the adult criminal justice system. Data on both boot camp graduates and the comparison group are presented. Arrest information from juvenile and adult records was compiled for a period of six months after graduation.

Cessation. The first measure of recidivism presented is a cessation measure: did the youth cease all criminal activity for six months after release? Figure 4 details the subsequent involvement with the juvenile/criminal justice system of the boot camp graduates and the comparison group. In the six months following graduation from boot camp, 36 percent of the boot camp graduates were re-arrested compared with 21 percent of the comparison group. This difference was not statistically significant. At the time this report was produced, 21 percent of the boot camp graduates and 18 percent of the comparison group had been re-adjudicated/convicted. One boot camp graduate has been arrested, but has not had a case reach the disposition stage. If this youth is convicted, the conviction rate could rise slightly. The difference in conviction rates was also not statistically significant. In terms of disposition, boot camp graduates were more likely to receive juvenile sanctions and comparison group youths were more likely to receive adult sanctions. However, given the same sample size, such differences may not be replicated in a larger population.

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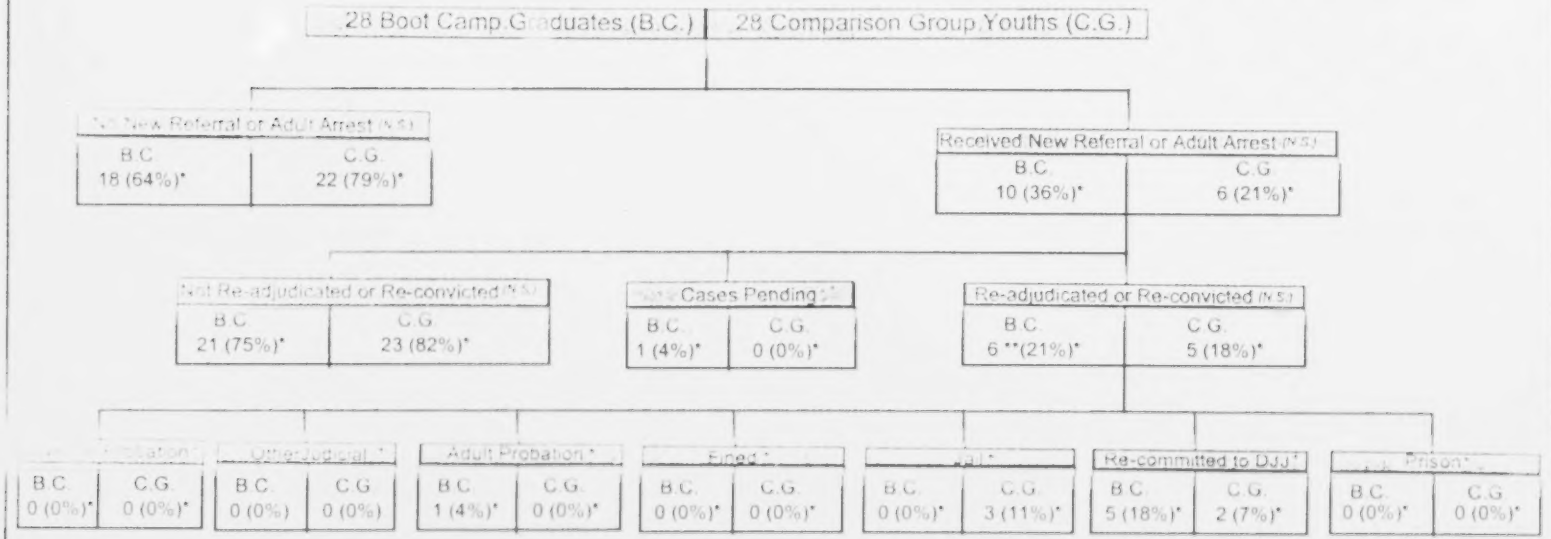
Figure 4: Subsequent Criminal Involvement of PCJBC-FP Graduates and Comparison Group Youths Within Six Months of Release



N.S. *No significant difference between Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths, $p < 0.05$*

* *Percentages are calculated based on the total number of youths and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

** *This percentage could increase slightly if the case pending results in conviction.*

* *Tests of statistical significance could not be run as there was an insufficient number of cases.*

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A breakdown of subsequent criminal involvement of boot camp graduates by platoon and for the comparison group is presented in Table 11. Platoon 3 exhibited the highest re-referral/arrest rate and a substantially higher conviction rate as compared to other platoons. The delinquency and commitment histories of Platoon 3 were more serious than subsequent platoons (see Appendix B).

Table 11: Subsequent Criminal Involvement of Boot Camp Graduates and Comparison Group Youths

		Arrest Status				Adjudication		Selected Dispositions							
		Not Arrested		Re-referred/ arrested		Re-adjudicated/ convicted		Recommitted To DJJ		Adult Felony Probation		Jail		Prison	
Platoons	**N**	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***	**N**	**%***
Platoon 1	5	3	60%	2	40%	1	20%	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 2	5	4	80%	1	20%	1	20%	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 3	4	1	25%	3	75%	2	50%	1	25%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 4	4	3	75%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 5	4	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 6	3	2	67%	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 7	3	2	67%	1	33%	0**	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Boot Camp Totals	**28**	**18**	**64%**	**10****	**36%**	**6****	**21%**	**5**	**18%**	**1**	**4%**	**0**	**0%**	**0**	**0%**
Comparison Group	***26***	***22***	***79%***	***6**n.s.***	***21%***	*5*	*18%*	*2*	*7%*	*0*	*0%*	*3*	*11%*	*0*	*0%*

** Percentages are calculated based on the number of graduates per platoon and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

*** One youth still has a case pending.*

n.s. Not significantly different from boot camp graduates, p= 0.05

Seriousness of Subsequent Offending. A second indication of behavioral change is the seriousness of the charges filed against youths after release from the residential program. The most serious charge for which a youth was arrested within six months of graduation is presented in Table 12. Seriousness of offending for both groups clearly decreased. For the boot camp graduates, whereas 13 of 28 (46%) graduates had been arrested for felony crimes in the six months prior to program admission, only five (18%) were arrested for felonies in the six months following release. While half of the comparison group had been arrested for felonies in the six months prior to program admission, only four (14%) were arrested for felonies in the six months after release from their residential programs. Boot camp graduates re-arrested were equally divided between those re-arrested for felonies and those re-arrested for misdemeanors. Of the comparison group youths re-arrested, four were re-arrested for felony crimes while two were arrested for misdemeanors.

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Table 12: Category of Most Serious Arrest Within A Year After Release[1]													
Platoons	N	Not Re-arrested		Felony Person		Felony Drug Offense		Felony Property		Other Felonies[1]		Misdemeanors and Others	
		N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Platoon 1	5	3	60%	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%
Platoon 2	5	4	80%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%
Platoon 3	4	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%
Platoon 4	4	3	75%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%
Platoon 5	4	3	75%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%
Platoon 6	3	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 7	3	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	33%
Boot Camp Total	28	18	64%	1	4%	1	4%	2	7%	1	4%	5	18%
Comparison Group	*28*	*22*	*79%*	*3*	*11%*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*4%*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*7%*

[1] *See Appendix B for a description of offenses included in each category.*

** Percentages are calculated based on the number of graduates per platoon and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Recruit Age and Subsequent Arrest. Table 13 presents a breakdown of re-arrest rates by age at admission for PCJBC-FP graduates and comparison group youths. For boot camp graduates, the highest rate of re-referral/arrest was for 17 year olds. For comparison group youths, the highest rate of re-referral/arrest was for 16 year olds. The average number of prior felony cases does not appear to explain the relationship between age and re-arrest.

Table 13: Comparison of Re-arrest Rates and Average Number of Prior Felony Cases by Age of Admission						
Age at Admission	N		Percent Subsequently Referred/arrested		Average Number of Felony Cases Before Program Admission	
	B.C.*	C.G.**	B.C.*	C.G.**	B.C.*	C.G.**
14 years	5	3	0%	0%	2.2	4.0
15 years	11	13	36%	15%	3.4	3.2
16 years	7	8	29%	38%	3.7	3.4
17 years	5	4	80%	25%	3.6	4.3
Total	28	28	36%	21%	3.3	3.5

** B.C. = Boot Camp Graduates* *** C.G. = Comparison Group Youths*

Commitment Status and Subsequent Arrest. Youths were admitted to the boot camp and the comparison group programs under a variety of commitment statuses. The majority of recruits (n=20) had spent time in another residential program. The comparison group youths were evenly divided between youth who were first-time commitments (n-14) and youths who had previously been committed (n=14). Table 14 presents a breakdown of re-arrest rates by commitment status for the boot camp graduates and the comparison group. The small numbers in each commitment status category

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reduce the meaningfulness of any observed patterns. However, recruits sent to boot camp as their first commitment have higher re-arrest rates than recruits who had previously been committed and comparison group youths who were first-time commitments. This pattern was not observed for the comparison group.

Table 14: Comparison of Re-arrest Rates and Average Number of Prior Felony Cases By Commitment Status

Commitment Status	N		Percent Subsequently Referred/Arrested		Average Number of Felony Cases Before Program Admission	
	B.C.*	C.G.**	B.C.***	C.G.***	B.C.*	C.G.**
First commitment	8	14	50%	21%	2.8	3.9
Recommitment from furlough or discharge status	1	1	0%	100%	3.0	5.0
Concurrent recommitment	7	5	43%	20%	5.6	3.7
Transfer from another residential program	12	8	25%	13%	2.3	2.8
Totals	**28**	**28**	**36%**	**21%**	**3.3**	**3.5**

* *B.C. = boot camp graduates* ** *C.G. = comparison group youths*
*** *Percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Aftercare Status and Subsequent Arrest. Table 15 examines the aftercare status at the time of boot camp graduates first re-arrest. Of the 10 recruits re-arrested most (70%) were first re-arrested while still enrolled in aftercare. Two youths were re-arrested after they had successfully completed aftercare.

Table 15: Aftercare Status of Boot Camp Graduates when First Re-arrested

Platoons	Number Re-arrested	Re-arrested while enrolled in aftercare		Re-arrested after being having completed aftercare		Re-arrested for escaping while being transported to boot camp from aftercare**	
		N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
Platoon 1	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Platoon 2	1	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
Platoon 3	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 4	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 5	1	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%
Platoon 6	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Platoon 7	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**10**	**7**	**70%**	**2**	**20%**	**1**	**10%**

* *Percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*
** *Youth was located within a few hours of escaping and delivered to the boot camp.*

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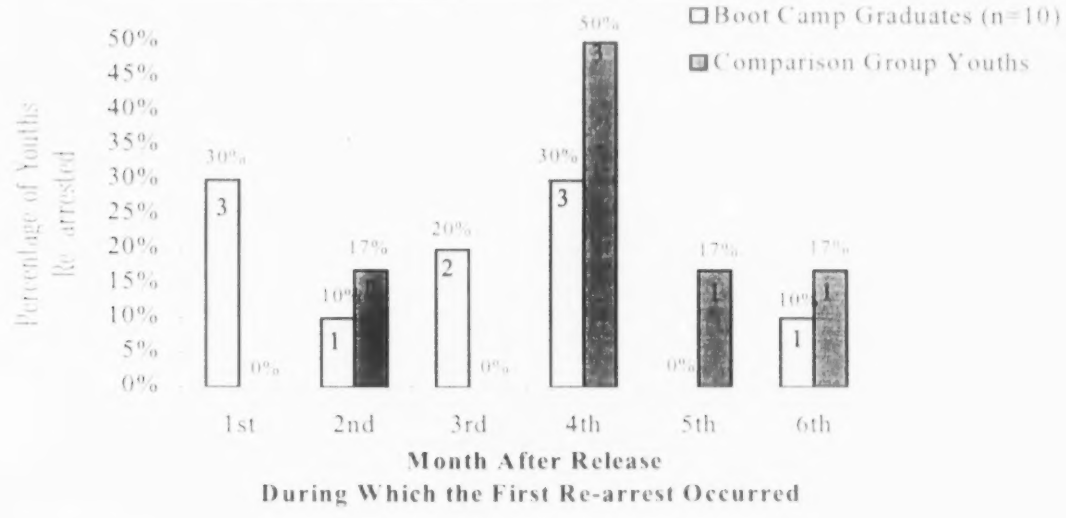
An arrest during aftercare does automatically lead to an unsuccessful release from aftercare. Of the 17 recruits who completed aftercare (see Table 7), two recruits had been arrested one or more times during their enrollment in aftercare; one was charged with a felony. Since being successfully released from aftercare, one of the recruits has been re-arrested again.

Timing of the First Re-arrest. Figure 5 presents the timing of the first re-arrest for both the 10 boot camp graduates and the 6 comparison group youths re-arrested within six months of release. For the boot camp graduates, their first re-arrest occurred between 9 and 161 days after release from boot camp. Three of the 10 recruits re-arrested within six months of release were arrested within the first month.

For the six comparison group youths re-arrested, their first re-arrest occurred between 46 and 165 days after release from their programs. The peak in re-arrests for the comparison group occurred later than for boot camp graduates; 50 percent of the comparison group re-arrested were re-arrested in the fourth month after release. The reasons for this difference in re-arrest patterns can not be addressed with the available data.

Figure 5: Percentage of Youths Re-arrested By Month of First Re-arrest



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Subsequent Offending of Graduates Recycled to Boot Camp. Table 16 shows the subsequent involvement with the justice system of recycled and not-recycled graduates. There does not appear to be any difference in re-arrest rates or recommitment rates between recruits who were recycled and those who were not.

Table 16: Relationship Between Recycling and Re-offending

Recycled Status	N	Re-referred/ arrested		Recommitted to DJJ	
		N	%*	N	%*
Recycled	6	2	33%	1	17%
Not-recycled	22	8	36%	4	18%
Totals	**28**	**10**	**36%**	**5**	**18%**

All percentages in this table are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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DISCUSSION

Summary

This report presents findings on the first seven platoons to graduate from PCJBC-FP. Outcome measures are compared to a matched comparison group of females who completed other delinquency programs. PCJBC-FP graduates earned on average 2.5 high school credits and achieved a 2.6 GPA. Sixty-five percent of the boot camp graduates successfully completed aftercare as compared to 60 percent of the comparison group. Evidence of continuing education or receipt of a GED was found for 82 percent of the boot camp graduates and 21 percent of the comparison group. Evidence of employment was found for 28 percent of boot camp graduates and 32 percent of the comparison group. Limitations in the data collection methods make it impossible to definitively conclude that lack of data indicating employment or continuing education means that neither has occurred.

Thirty-six percent of the boot camp graduates and 21 percent of the comparison group youths were re-arrested within six months of program release. There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups. Differences in the conviction rate of 21 percent for PCJBC-FP graduates and 18 percent for comparison group youths were also not statistically significant. Boot camp graduates were more likely to receive juvenile sanctions and comparison group youths were more likely to receive adult sanctions. However, given the small numbers of youths studied, such differences may not be observed in a larger sample.

Changes At PCJBC

This report focuses on the first seven platoons to graduate from PCJBC-FP. The program was expanded in September 1996 to include a residential transition for females. The program, is operated by the Florida Sheriff Youth Villa and can serve up to six females. Priority for placement goes to graduates from District 14. The transition phase is designed to last up to two months. The female program now provides the same three-phased integrated programming that the male program offers.

Limitations

This report is limited to examining the first 28 recruits to graduate from the Female Program at PCJBC. While the female program certainly benefited from the refinements that occurred at PCJBC over the first nine months of operations, this study focuses on the first year that the female program was in operation.

The most serious limitation of this study is its focus on outcomes to the exclusion of an examination of program components and how these components affect expected outcomes. The outcome measures stipulated in Section 39.057 (9) F.S., (1995) focus exclusively on graduates' behavior after they have left boot camp. The focus on change in educational progress,

employment and criminal involvement after release from boot camp is premised on the expectation that boot camp programming will affect these three areas. However, no measures have been implemented to assess the way in which specific components of the boot camp contribute to change in these areas. It is important to examine how program components such as education, job skills, behavior management, substance abuse education, counseling, physical training and labor, and military-style drill and discipline affect employment procurement, increased educational attainment and acceptable rates of recidivism. Without such an examination, it is impossible to identify which components of the program contribute to changes in the outcomes of interest. Consequently, an empirically derived understanding of why behavioral changes occur is lacking.

Recommendations

If evaluation research is to provide the information needed to refine commitment programs, it is not enough to examine whether or not certain objectives were met. We need to expand our focus from outcome measures (e.g., reduce re-offending, increase educational levels) to understanding the relationships between program components and outcomes. Program development needs to include a theoretically-based model of how program components will contribute to the achievement of program objectives. This model should delineate the process by which programming was expected to improve youths' values and attitudes, and how changes in values and attitudes are expected to result in changes in performance and behavior. We need to understand how the external control of behavior provided by the rules and regulations of boot camp programs is hypothesized to lead to the internalization of pro-social attitudes and values. This type of process evaluation allows researchers to assess which components of a program contribute to desired changes. Replication of effective programs and modification or elimination of the ineffective components is then possible.

Appendix A: Categorization of Offenses Based on CIS Referral Codes

Felony Person: includes murder/non-negligent manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, armed robbery, other robbery, aggravated assault and/or battery, resisting arrest with violence, and shooting/throwing a deadly missile into an occupied dwelling/vehicle.

Felony Drug: includes felony violations of drug laws

Felony Property: includes arson, burglary (breaking and entering), auto theft, grand larceny, receiving stolen property valued at over $100, and forgery and uttering.

Other Felony: includes concealed firearm, escape from a training school, secure detention, or a community-based residential program, and "other felonies" (CIS code 20). CIS code 20 includes all other felony offenses not specifically identified in the coding scheme. This results in an undercounting of the other categories to an unknown degree. For example, battery on a law enforcement officer is sometimes classified in CIS as an "other felony", not as aggravated assault and/or battery.

Misdemeanors and Other: includes misdemeanor charges and non-law violations of community control.

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Appendix B: Demographic Characteristics, Delinquency and Commitment Histories, and Commitment Offense of PCJBC-FP Graduates by Platoon

Profile by Platoon				
Platoons	**N**	**Average Age at Admission**	**Percent Black**	**Court Ordered to High-Risk Residential Commitment Program**
Platoon 1	5	15.9	60%	0%
Platoon 2	5	16.7	60%	40%
Platoon 3	4	16.0	50%	50%
Platoon 4	4	15.9	50%	50%
Platoon 5	4	15.2	50%	0%
Platoon 6	4	15.6	75%	25%
Platoon 7	2	16.3	50%	0%
Totals	**28**	**15.9**	**57%**	**25%**

Delinquency and Commitment Histories by Platoon

		Average Number of Cases Before Boot Camp Admission*	**Average Number of Felony Cases Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Average Number of Cases Adjudicated Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Average Number of Felony Cases Adjudicated Before Boot Camp Admission***	**Percent Previously Committed to DJJ**
Platoons	**N**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**N**	**%**
Platoon 1	5	7.6	2.0	5.4	1.2	80%
Platoon 2	5	7.6	4.0	6.0	2.8	100%
Platoon 3	4	9.8	5.5	7.0	2.3	75%
Platoon 4	4	7.5	3.0	5.3	1.3	75%
Platoon 5	4	8.3	3.8	4.5	1.5	50%
Platoon 6	4	5.3	1.5	3.5	0.8	50%
Platoon 7	2	8.5	3.5	5.5	2.0	50%
Totals	**28**	**7.7**	**3.3**	**5.3**	**1.7**	**71%**

** All referrals occurring on a single date are counted as one case.*

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Commitment Offense By Platoon											
		Felony Person		Felony Drug		Felony Property		Other Felony		Misdemeanors and Other	
Platoons	**N**	**N**	%*	**N**	%*	**N**	%*	**N**	%*	**N**	%*
Platoon 1	5	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	2	40%
Platoon 2	5	0	0%	1	20%	1	20%	0	0%	3	60%
Platoon 3	4	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%
Platoon 4	4	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%
Platoon 5	4	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%	1	25%	1	25%
Platoon 6	4	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	2	50%
Platoon 7	2	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%
Totals	**28**	**5**	**18%**	**1**	**4%**	**5**	**18%**	**4**	**14%**	**13**	**46%**

**All percentages are row percentages and are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

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